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Date: NOV 25 1963

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An Opening to the Left

The news explodes before the eyes of millions. We would like to set aside today to tell sad stories about the deaths of kings. But the silencing of Lee Harvey Oswald, unconfessed, is a disaster that approaches the disaster of Friday. Although we live in an age of international assassination, it will be difficult to uncover the ramifications of the plot. There is no reason whatever to believe that the United States are immune to the international Communist conspiracy.

The prime suspect, in our opinion, is not Khrushchev, who was already making good progress toward his goals. The finger points to Fidel Castro, an old hand at assassination. While at the University of Havana, he wove the nets in three or four assassination plots; he wove them again at Bogota. In August of this year, as Castro rode through Matanzas Province in an open jeep, a bullet meant for the tyrant was stopped in the flesh of a bodyguard. Castro, probably with reason, accused the American Central Intelligence Agency. Two weeks later, he recovered his composure to talk to reporters at a reception in the Brazilian embassy. Every American who mourns our President today will want to read the dispatch as it appeared in September:

HAVANA, Sept 8—(P)—Prime Minister Castro said Saturday night "United States leaders" would be in danger if they helped in any attempt to do away with leaders of Cuba.

Bitterly denouncing what he called recent U. S.-prompted raids on Cuba territory, Castro told a reporter in an impromptu interview:

"We are prepared to fight them and answer in kind. United States leaders should think that if they are aiding terrorists' plans to eliminate Cuban leaders, they cannot themselves be safe."

If there is any doubt which leader Castro had in mind, a UPI reporter at the same interview centered almost entirely on Castro's vituperation of the late President: "President Kennedy is the Batista of his time, and the most opportunistic American President of all times . . . Kennedy is a cretin, and a member of an oligarchic family that controls several important posts in the government . . . Kennedy is thinking more about re-election than about the American people."

After the assassination of Diem and his brother, upon which the U. S. smiled, to say the least, there is every reason to assume that Castro reviewed his position. The parallel with the assassination of Trujillo is too close, and the CIA left too many clues around. Certainly Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia had second thoughts about the CIA, and his own neck.

Castro was rapidly approaching a crisis. The Soviets were withdrawing troops and aid. There were well-founded rumors that Averell Harriman's deal between Washington and Moscow dealt Castro out. On Monday the late President spoke in Miami, and offered to help a Cuban government, any sort of government, if foreign domination were thrown off. It was an open invitation to do away with Castro. He who lives by the CIA . . .

We reject the theory that the late Lee Harvey Oswald needed to be insane to commit such a horrible crime. The Dallas police believed they had an airtight case against him. In the details released to the public, there was no mark of fanaticism. There was only a cold, calculated plan, performed by a man capable of a competent job of work. The amateur gets flustered. The fanatic regicide is eager to be acknowledged in his niche in history. The professional denies everything and calls for his lawyer.

Let us cut through the fog of stupefaction and unbelief. Let us make an opening to the left, for that is where the motivation lies. Was the suspect, Lee Harvey Oswald, really interested in Fair Play for Cuba? A trip through the Fair Play for Cuba Committee is a trip through the sewers of the liberal Left. In the hearings before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, there appears a parade of Communists, Trotskyites, socialists, bleeding hearts, pacifists, and pious pornographers.

Here one finds leftist stawls such as Waldo Frank, who was paid \$25,000 by Castro to write *Cuba, Prophetic Island*; Robert Taber, the CBS news correspondent who recorded favorable interviews with Castro in the Sierra Maestre; Victor Rabinowitz, the civil liberties lawyer whose daughter Joni faces perjury charges in Georgia; Lyle Stuart, the iconoclastic publisher of

erotica; Dr. Carlos Santos-Buch, who was paid \$3,500 by the Castro government to take a full-page ad in the *New York Times*. Here is where leftist ideas boiled up and were laundered and perfumed for the liberal intellectuals. In no time the names of James Baldwin, Simone de Beauvoir, Truman Capote, the Rev. Donald Harrington, Norman Mailer became endorsers of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Altogether 7,000 members were taken in.

As early as 1961, the FBI's annual report stated: "FBI investigations have shown that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee has been heavily infiltrated by the Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party, and these parties have actually organized some chapters of the committee." But Robert Kennedy repeatedly ignored exhortations by Congressmen that FPCC be put on the Attorney General's subversive list.

On September 9, the very day that Castro's threats against the President were being reported, Senator Barry Goldwater pleaded before an audience in Cleveland: "The radical left poses an immediate serious threat close to the government of the United States, and here is where we must concentrate our attention and attack."

It is not hard to believe that Oswald's sympathies fell in this slough. The inclination of the Left, at its deepest levels, is to destroy, to overturn civilization and morality. It is a destructive urge which poisons American liberalism even in its milder forms today. Everyone who knew Oswald tells of his dedication to communism, to the Marxism of Castro. There need have been no hatred in his heart to perform the perverted view of the higher duty—Fair Play for Cuba.

Incredibly, the world may never know. There now will be no trial, no evidence, no cross-examining of witnesses. Already Castro doth protest his innocence too much, but to no need. As though with the quick dispatch of the hired killer, Oswald is silenced. Jack Rubinstein stands accused of the most daring crime of the century. The shooting of Oswald fits every pattern of Communist crime; but it may be that, in the end, we have found in Jack Ruby our fanatic at last.